[22nd March 1921

Silk industry in the Presidency.

456 Q.—Mr. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state—

(*a*) in what places in this Presidency the silk industry is carried on;
(*b*) in what condition it is in this country; and
(*c*) whether there is any scope for its development.

A.—The honourable member is referred to Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy's Report on the Silk Industry in India published by the Government of India in the year 1919 and Appendix G to the Report of the Indian Industrial Commission.

Spinning wheel in rural areas of Gōdāvari, Kistna, etc.

457 Q.—Mr. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a good deal of stimulus has been given for the use of the spinning wheel in the rural areas in the districts of Gōdāvari, Kistna and Guntūr within the last two years;

(*b*) whether this stimulation has brought about any excess of yarn and, if so, to what extent;

(*c*) whether the Government have in any way helped the extensive use of the spinning wheel;

(*d*) whether the spinning wheel that is used is of the old crude type;

(*e*) whether any attempts have been made by the Department of Industries to import improved hand spinning wheels, if any, from other parts of India; and

(*f*) if not, whether any steps will be taken to improve the existing hand spinning wheels.

A.—(*a*) Owing to the high prices of yarn last year a small number of women appear to have resumed the use of old spinning wheel in the districts of Gōdāvari, Kistna and Guntūr.

(*b*) The Government have no information on the subject. The Government would need a special staff to make such inquiries and the information, if obtained, would be unreliable and serve no useful purpose.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) No. The Government are advised that hand-spun yarn is unlikely for any length of time to compete successfully with mill-spun yarn.

Indigo industry in the Presidency.

458 Q.—Mr. S. R. Y. Ankinedu Prasad Bahadur: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Development to state—

(*a*) in what condition the indigo industry is in this Presidency;

(*b*) whether any steps have been taken to improve the method of getting the dye-stuff so as to compete successfully with the synthetic indigo;

(*c*) whether the recently published bulletin on indigo research by the Pusa Agricultural Institute containing the results of experiments by the Rev. A. Davis, the Indigo Research Chemist to the Government of India, has been perused by the Ministry; and

(*d*) if so, whether any attempts will be made to try those experiments in this country.